

Planning Committee 18.11.2021.

Report by Michael Hanley.

Present: Chair: William Patterson. Councillors: Henry Sawrey-Cookson, Elaine Martin, John Lynch, Debra Wicks, D Chambers, Ali Ross, Graham Simkins, Mike Eyles, Peter Baker, Michael Hanley.

Planning officer: Nick Atkinson. Council solicitor: Rebecca Harrison.

1. There was only one item. This was a reapplication for planning approval for the erection of four residential buildings at Melmerby which had been refused permission in May 2020. Three agricultural buildings were to be demolished to make way for the buildings. The Planning Department recommended refusal of planning permission.

Myself and Graham Simkins were told we could not take part in the decision as we had not been members of the planning committee in May 20.

Peter Baker: asked about the bat survey.

Ali Ross (AR): Pointed out that one of the reasons that the application had been refused previously had been a gable end window which wasn't referred to in this application.

Nick Atkinson (NA): Agreed that this had been omitted and apologised for this.

AR: Asked whether the planning agent had submitted any further reasons for submitting the same application.

NA: They disagreed with the reasons for refusal in the previous application. There is no difference to the scheme. If you want all the correspondence, I could send that to you.

Henry Sawrey-Cookson: We should recommend refusal on the grounds of the bat survey.

Debra Wicks: This would not be a good reason to refuse.

NA: I agree with DW.

William Patterson: The bat survey has been done. The windows have been addressed. We can't give these as reasons for refusal.

Mike Eyles: I don't support the proposal (to refuse planning permission).

AR: There is little impact on the environment and so I don't support the proposal.

Vote: For (to refuse planning permission): 4

Against: 5. Planning permission was therefore approved.

ME: We can't keep these villages stuck in the same state, we need to encourage people to stay in the villages. This was seconded by AR.

A further motion was made: to approve this application with delegated powers to the planning officer. Votes: For: 5, against: 3, abstain: 1.

2. Planning Performance Report

Planning Applications: 2018-19: 980, 2019-20: 892, 2020-21: 1116. Up to 2020-21 100% of planning applications were determined within 13 weeks. This has slipped to 75% in quarter one of 2021-22 and 87% in the second quarter. The national target is 60%.